

## IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a connection on a remote communicating device, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a connection request from a software application executing on a remote communicating device;

~~wherein the remote communicating device has a plurality of communication connections for communicating with other devices;~~

determining if the received connection request satisfies connection control information associated with the software application; ~~[[,]]~~

~~the connection control information including an association between the software application and one or more of the communication connections, wherein said association includes whether a connection is permissible with respect to one or more of the communication connections for the software application; and~~

if the connection request satisfies connection control information associated with the software application, authorizing the opening of a communication connection for use by the software application; and

if the connection request does not satisfy connection control information associated with the software application, then providing an interface to a user of the remote communicating device for receiving authorization for the opening of the communication connection and only updating the connection control information associated with the software application if the

received authorization indicates authorization for both current and future opening of the communication connection.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of authorizing the opening of the communication connection comprises the step of opening the communication connection for use by the software application.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises the step of retrieving connection control information associated with the software application.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the determining step further comprises the step of comparing one or more control criteria based on the retrieved connection control information with one or more request parameters based upon the received connection request.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the determining step further comprises the steps of determining a desired communication connection from the received connection request and, if the retrieved connection control information comprises a record of the desired communication

connection as an allowable communication connection, then determining that the received connection request satisfies connection control information associated with the software application.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the determining step further comprises the steps of determining a desired communication connection from the received connection request and, if the retrieved connection control information comprises a record of the desired communication connection as a prohibited communication connection, then determining that the received connection request does not satisfy connection control information associated with the software application.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, and further comprising the steps of receiving connection control information associated with the software application and storing the received connection control information.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, and further comprising the step of authenticating the received connection control information.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, and further comprising the step of receiving a connection control information update associated with the software application and updating the stored connection control information based upon the received connection control information update.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the connection control information is based upon the software application at installation on the remote communicating device, a connection type associated with the software application, one or more allowable connection types associated with the software application, a source associated therewith or a connection type associated therewith, one or more prohibited connection types associated with the software application, a source associated therewith or a connection type associated therewith, configuration information provided at installation, manual association of connection control information associated with the software application or combinations thereof; wherein the connection request is a request for use of a physical transport layer.

12-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, and further comprising the step of updating the connection control information if the received connection request is the first connection request received from the software application.

17. (Original) One or more computer-readable media storing instructions that upon execution by a computer cause the computer to control a connection on a remote communicating device by performing the steps of claim 1.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the received connection request satisfies connection control information and further comprising the step of receiving data via the communication connection for use by the software application.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the communication connection allows access to data from a computer within a secured corporate computer network.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, and further comprising the step of receiving a second connection request from the software application, wherein the second connection request does not satisfy connection control information, and denying authorization for opening a second communication connection in response to the received second connection request.

21-30 (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the physical transport layer is a wireless interface, a USB interface, an Infrared Data Association interface, a serial interface, a parallel interface, a PCMCIA interface, a PCI interface, or combinations thereof.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the connection control information includes one or more connection types associated with the software application.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the connection types are an external connection, an internal connection, or combinations thereof.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the connection request is a request for use of a physical transport layer.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the physical transport layer is a wireless interface, a USB interface, an Infared Data Association interface, a serial interface, a parallel interface, a PCMCIA interface, a PCI interface, or combinations thereof.